

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184528 TOSEC 080140

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), IT

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: SEPTEMBER VISIT TO ROME

(S/S NO. 7720524)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM GEORGE VEST

1. ISSUE FOR DECISION

ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI LEFT WASHINGTON AFTER THE ANDREOTTI VISIT WITH THE IMPRESSION YOU WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO STOP IN ROME FOR A BRIEF OVERNIGHT VISIT FOLLOWING YOUR TALKS IN VIENNA SEPTEMBER 5-9. WE NEED YOUR DECISION ON WHETHER TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR A ROME STOP.

2. ESSENTIAL FACTORS

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A SHORT VISIT TO ROME WOULD BE A USEFUL FOLLOW-ON TO ANDREOTTI'S VISIT HERE AND WOULD HELP TO CORRECT THE LONG-STANDING RECORD OF NEGLECTING ROME ON SECRETARIAL TRIPS TO EUROPE. A SHORT STOPOVER IS SUFFICIENT, HOWEVER, AND A HALF-DAY PROGRAM IS ALL I WOULD RECOMMEND -- MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER CABINET OFFICERS ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 10 FOLLOWED BY LUNCH

AND DEPARTURE IN TIME TO BE IN WASHINGTON LATER THE SAME

EVENING. A CALL AT THE VATICAN IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY,
THOUGH THE POPE WILL PROBABLY STILL BE AT HIS SUMMER
RESIDENCE OF CASTEL GANDOLFO.

3. RECOMMENDATION

THAT YOU AGREE TO STOP IN ROME AND AUTHORIZE MY SENDING
THE FOLLOWING CABLE (PARAGRAPH 4) TO OUR CHARGE THERE.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

4. QUOTE. EXDIS - FOR THE CHARGE FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY
VEST. DURING PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S VISIT TO
WASHINGTON JULY 26-27, SECRETARY VANCE DISCUSSED WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI THE POSSIBILITY OF A SHORT STOP-
OVER IN ROME FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY'S
MEETINGS IN VIENNA SEPTEMBER 5-9. THE SECRETARY WILL BE
LEAVING VIENNA LATE AFTERNOON OR EARLY EVENING ON
SEPTEMBER 9 AND COULD FLY INTO ROME TO SPEND THE NIGHT.
THE NEXT DAY, SEPTEMBER 10, HE COULD HAVE A PROGRAM OF
MEETINGS IN THE MORNING FOLLOWED BY A LUNCHEON. THE
SECRETARY WOULD PREFER TO BE ABLE TO DEPART FOR WASHINGTON
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FROM ROME THAT SAME AFTERNOON. YOU SHOULD EXPLORE WITH
THE ITALIANS THE ACCEPTABILITY OF A SHORT VISIT BY THE
SECRETARY AS OUTLINED ABOVE. WE WILL DISCUSS WITH SARROS
THE POSSIBILITY OF A VATICAN CALL. PLEASE REPORT ITALIAN
REACTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT WITH INFO SECRETARY (THROUGH
AUGUST 13). UNQUOTE.

5. DRAFTED: EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY. CLEARANCES: S - PTARNOFF;
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